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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW YORK METRO-AREA RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR FRAUD IN
CONNECTION WITH TOEFL/GMAT EXAMS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Marvin J. Garbis sentenced Lu Xu, age 35, of New York, New York to 27 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to mail and wire fraud arising from a scheme to defraud Thomson Prometric (Prometric), located in Baltimore, Maryland, Educational Testing Service (ETS), Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), and numerous universities and colleges throughout the United States.

According to the agreed statement of facts presented to the court, through the submission of altered and fraudulent identifications and passport documents, Xu and his co-conspirators registered for and completed either the GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test), the GRE (Graduate Record Exam), or the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) while posing for others who paid Xu or their designees to take the tests.

Prometric provides on-site security for standardized examinations. Prometric performed this service for ETS, GMAC and others. ETS and GMAC charged fees to students who took

standardized exams. The results of ETS's and GMAC's examinations were relied upon by educational institutions in the United States in considering a student for admission to, or continued enrollment in, various academic programs. ETS and GMAC relied on Prometric for on-site security.

From September 1999 until May 2003, Xu and his co-conspirators operated under the guise of legitimate "tutoring" services. Specifically, a student who was being taught how to prepare for one of the aforementioned examinations would be told that for a nominal fee the test would be taken for the student. Xu and his co-conspirators charged approximately \$3,000 for this service and guaranteed a certain score. Xu and others advertised the service in the World Journal. When a student paid for the service, the owners/operators would register the student for the examination, and would schedule an imposter to take the test. Xu and his co-conspirators would also provide a false identification or a forged passport for the imposter to use in order to gain entry to the examination site. Xu and his co-conspirators would share the profits with the impostor.

Approximately over 590 exams were taken as part of the fraudulent scheme. Xu was involved in approximately 212 of those exams involving a total of \$530,000. Xu was also a test taker/impostor. He has been positively identified, through photograph identification, in approximately 150 examinations taken under false pretenses. Xu also recruited other friends to take examinations as impostors.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.